(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of information seekers in the country are waiting for information under the Right to Information Act despite having legal orders;

(b) if so, the details thereof State-wise; and

(c) the effective steps being taken by Government to ensure that the information seekers could get the information on time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) and (b) The information is not centrally maintained.

(c) The Act has an inbuilt system to ensure timely supply of information to the information seekers. If a public information officer fails, without any reasonable cause, to furnish information within the prescribed time, a penalty upto Rs.25,000/- can be imposed on him.

Delay in information under RTI

†2381. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that General Public have to suffer a lot to get information on time under Right to Information;

(b) if so, whether Government has organized any review meeting to assess the working of Right to Information Act;

(c) whether Government is contemplating to establish any mechanism to provide full information on time to public;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) to (e) The Right to Information Act already has an inbuilt mechanism to ensure that complete information to an information seeker is supplied in time. If a public information officer fails, without any reasonable cause, to supply correct and complete information within the prescribed time limit, a penalty upto Rs.25,000/- can be imposed on him.

Disposal of cases in Government offices

2382. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are hardly any effective rules/guidelines/procedural directions to ensure speedy and prompt disposal of cases in Government offices, Government undertakings, etc., which leads to delays in the disposal of cases by the lower staff and their supervisors, which in turn causes harassment to the common man; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the steps that are proposed by Government to eliminate delays in offices including punishing the inefficient staff/supervisory officers to end this malady being suffered by the nation and by when they are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) and (b) The procedure of handling the official work in offices of Ministries/Departments of GOI has been prescribed in the Central Secretariat Manual of Office Procedure (CSMOP), a copy of which is available in the public domain, on the Government website *www.arpg.nic.in*. This Manual *inter alia* contains a Chapter called "Checks on Delays". According to provisions contained in this Chapter 'time limits' are to be fixed for disposal of cases by the Departments individually. Further, according to provisions contained in Central Civil Services (Conduct) Rule, 1964, if any complaint is received against any Government servant that he has adopted dilatory tactics in his dealings with the public and if it is established that the complaint is true, action would be taken against the concerned official.

In so far as Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) are concerned, the disposal of cases fall within their day to day functions and this is governed by the Management of the respective CPSEs. Any lapse in this regard is dealt within the provisions made in the Employees Conduct, Discipline and Appeal (ECDA) Rules framed by respective CPSEs in order to monitor and control the activities of their employees.

Extension of services to officers

2383. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the officers appointed in the various Ministries have been given extension of services after retirement by the present Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof may be given in the form of an Annexure;

(c) whether it is a rarity or matter of routine course by this Government;

(d) comparison with the earlier Government; and

(e) whether present Government is aware that there has been heart burning by this process among the officers who could aspire to occupy these assignments in the normal course but for the extension given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) to (c) Extension of service is granted only in rare cases in public interest provided they are covered by the specific provisions in Fundamental Rule 56(d). The details of extensions given are not centrally maintained.

(d) and (e) The provisions in the rules and instructions are strictly followed by the Government in all cases uniformly keeping in view all aspects of the matter.

Resource allocation for tackling challenges

2384. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: